



AMBASSADE  
DE FRANCE  
EN IRLANDE

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

Direction générale du Trésor

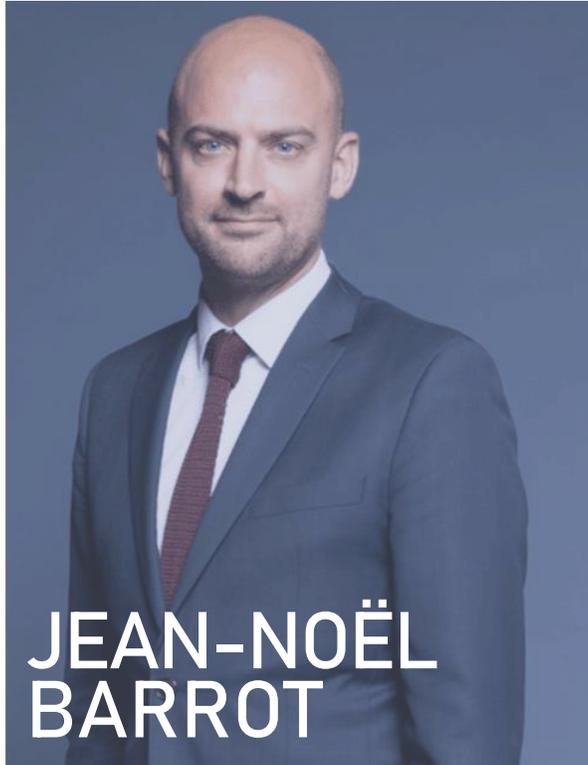


# THE FRENCH ECONOMIC FOOTPRINT IN IRELAND

Nov 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition





Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

## FOREWORD

In the wake of repeated shocks to global trade — from Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic to today's mounting uncertainties — the Franco-Irish economic relationship has stood out as both an anchor of stability and a powerful driver of growth. Trade in goods between France and Ireland is now 30% higher than before Covid, while exchanges in services have soared by 75% and foreign direct investment by 30%. France remains Ireland's first EU investor and its foremost EU supplier. Amid shifting trade flows, France has proven itself a trusted and long-standing partner for Ireland: stable, dependable, and deeply integrated into its economy.

This edition of The French Economic Footprint in Ireland provides an insightful overview of the economic ties between French companies and Ireland. Some 35,000 people are employed in subsidiaries of French groups across the country, and a further 10,000 work in Irish firms with majority French ownership. Beyond the figures, this report highlights companies that are here to stay — and here to contribute to the common good. For over sixty years, French firms have invested, innovated, and shared their expertise across Ireland's key sectors, helping to strengthen infrastructure, accelerate decarbonisation, support the digital transition, and respond to demographic change. Two-thirds of them plan to increase their investments further in the years ahead.

As Ireland's closest EU neighbour, France is determined to deepen this partnership both bilaterally and at the European level. The Franco-Irish relationship rests not only on trade and investment, but also on shared ambitions and common values. Under the leadership of the President of the French Republic, France has made the strengthening of European sovereignty and the deepening of ties among EU partners a cornerstone of its external action — a vision that fully includes our partnership with Ireland. Together, France and Ireland stand as steadfast advocates of multilateralism, peace, and an international order grounded in rules and mutual respect. Through the Joint Plan of Action between France and Ireland (2021-2025), our two countries have worked hand in hand. The next plan for 2026-2030 will renew and amplify that ambition, taking our cooperation to new heights.



Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign  
Affairs and Trade

## FOREWORD

The second French Economic Footprint in Ireland report reaffirms the value of Ireland and France's trade and investment relationship, and our shared commitment to deepening economic relations. The launch of the first report of the French Economic Footprint in Ireland in 2023 coincided with 50 years of Ireland's EU membership and 30 years of the European Single Market. This report now comes at a no less important time as Ireland prepares for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2026, during which we will strive to move towards a more competitive Europe, boosting productivity and deepening the single market, together with our EU partners.

The trade relationship between Ireland and France continues to flourish. The report confirms that trade in both goods and services is on a positive upward trajectory. Air and maritime connections between France and Ireland continue to grow, increasing people-to-people links and tourism across our two countries.

This report gives us further evidence of Ireland's attractiveness as a destination for French business, with leading French companies establishing and investing in Ireland. These French companies also support our key national objectives: an open economy, decarbonisation, infrastructure investment, healthcare solutions and digitalisation. I am pleased to say that this dynamic is reflected by a significant Irish economic footprint in France across priority sectors such as construction, engineering, life sciences, sustainability, digital and consumer products. Moreover, French and Irish companies are collaborating to deliver largescale, strategic European projects such as the Celtic Interconnector electricity cable - Ireland's first interconnector to mainland Europe.

Our two governments have been working ever more closely together to foster and stimulate trade and business between us. We have had a strategic Joint Plan of Action in place since 2021 that has provided a framework for developing relations and the delivery of significant initiatives. We are looking ahead ambitiously at what we can do further together across the breadth of our relationship in the years to come.

We look forward to finding new opportunities to work with our French partners across all sectors of our economies, to encourage even more joint innovation and collaboration, as we drive towards a stronger, more competitive Europe.

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## 6 KEY FIGURES ON THE FRENCH ECONOMIC FOOTPRINT IN IRELAND



60%

Bilateral trade exceeds pre-Covid by 30% in goods and 75% in services



#1

France is Ireland's leading supplier within the EU



340

340 subsidiaries of French companies and French-owned firms



#1

France's is the leading EU investor in Ireland



45.000

45 000 direct jobs created in Ireland by French companies and French-owned firms



2/3

2/3 of French companies surveyed intend to grow their business in Ireland

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together, set against a solid blue background. The hand on the left is wearing a dark grey hoodie and a multi-colored braided bracelet. The hand on the right is wearing a reddish-brown hoodie and a dark green wristband with white markings. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers interlaced.

PART 1

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FRANCE : IRELAND'S CLOSEST EU  
NEIGHBOUR

## FRANCE : IRELAND'S CLOSEST EU NEIGHBOUR



France is Ireland's leading supplier within the EU, and third globally

France provided 11 % of Ireland's goods imports in 2024, just after the UK (17%) and the US (16%), and ahead of Germany (9%) and China (9%).



Facilitated by a nearly 10-fold increase in maritime connections

From just 4 weekly crossings pre-Covid to 37 in 2025



Trade in goods reached €14.2 bn in 2024, 30% above pre-Covid levels



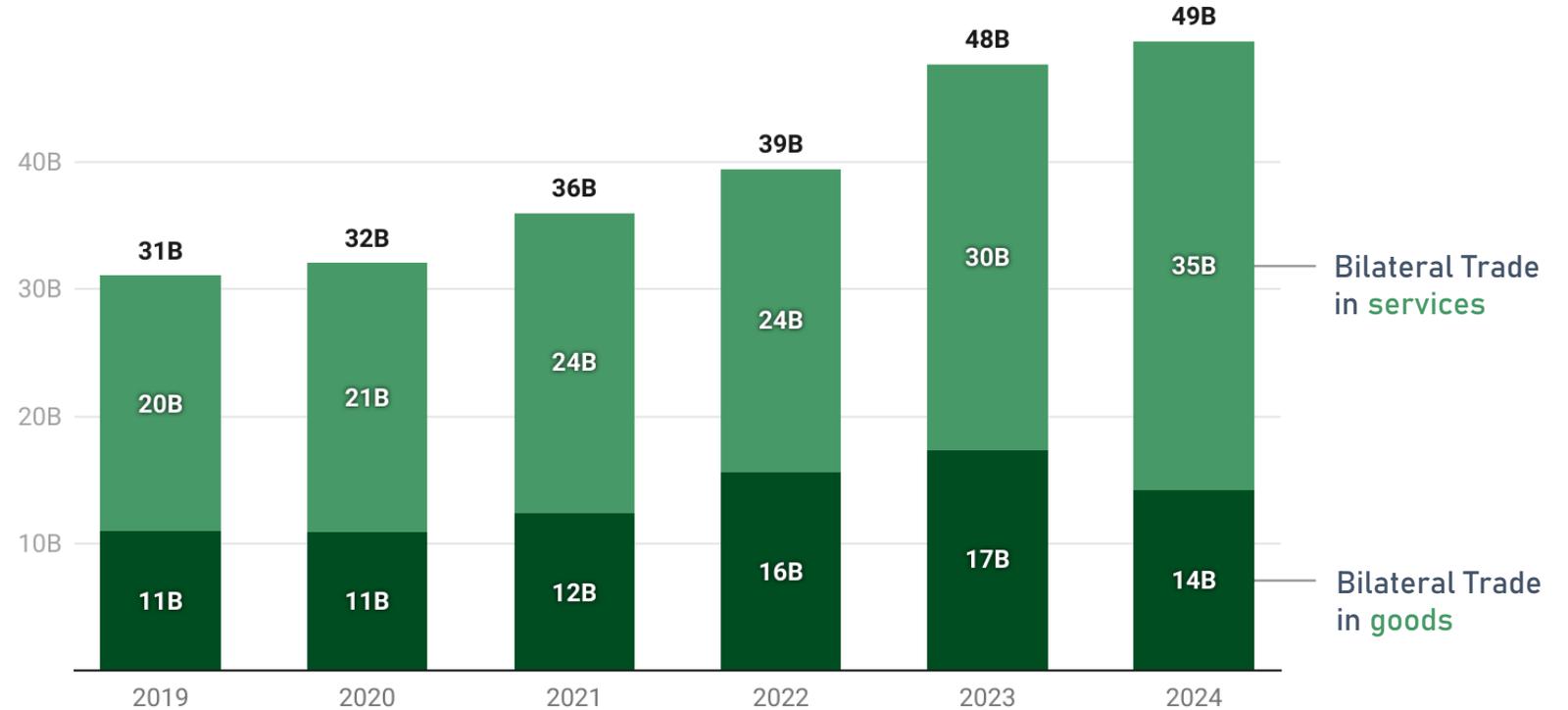
Trade in services rose to €35.3 bn in 2024, a 75% increase since 2019.

In 2024, France exported €5.6 bn in goods and €16.7bn in services to Ireland, while Ireland exported €8.6 bn in goods and €18.7 bn in services to France.

## STRONGER TIES: FRENCH-IRISH TRADE ON THE RISE POST-COVID

Trade in goods and services increased by almost 60% between 2019 and 2024.

Bilateral trade in services increased by 75% from €20 bn in 2019 to €35 bn in 2024, while trade in goods increased by 30% from €11 bn to €14 bn in 2024, strengthening France's position as Ireland's closest EU neighbour.

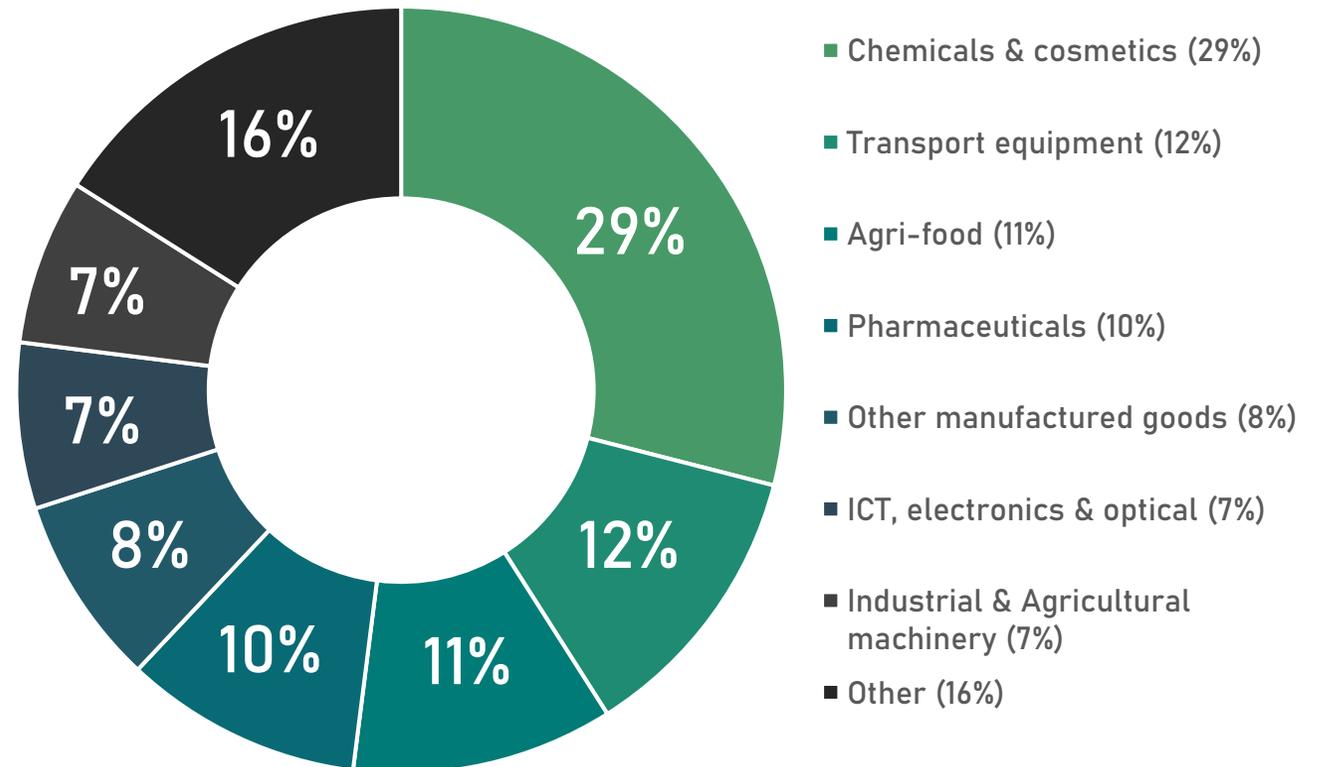


Sources: CSO, Value of Merchandise Trade (TSA13), 2024 ; French Customs 2024

## FRANCE AND IRELAND: €14 BN TRADE IN GOODS IN AN INTEGRATED SUPPLY CHAIN

### France's Goods Exports to Ireland in 2024: €5.6 bn

With €1.6 bn in **chemicals** exports, €660 M in **transport** and €606 M in **agri-food**, French companies are key suppliers to Ireland's pharma industry, partners in addressing infrastructure challenges and in safeguarding EU food security.

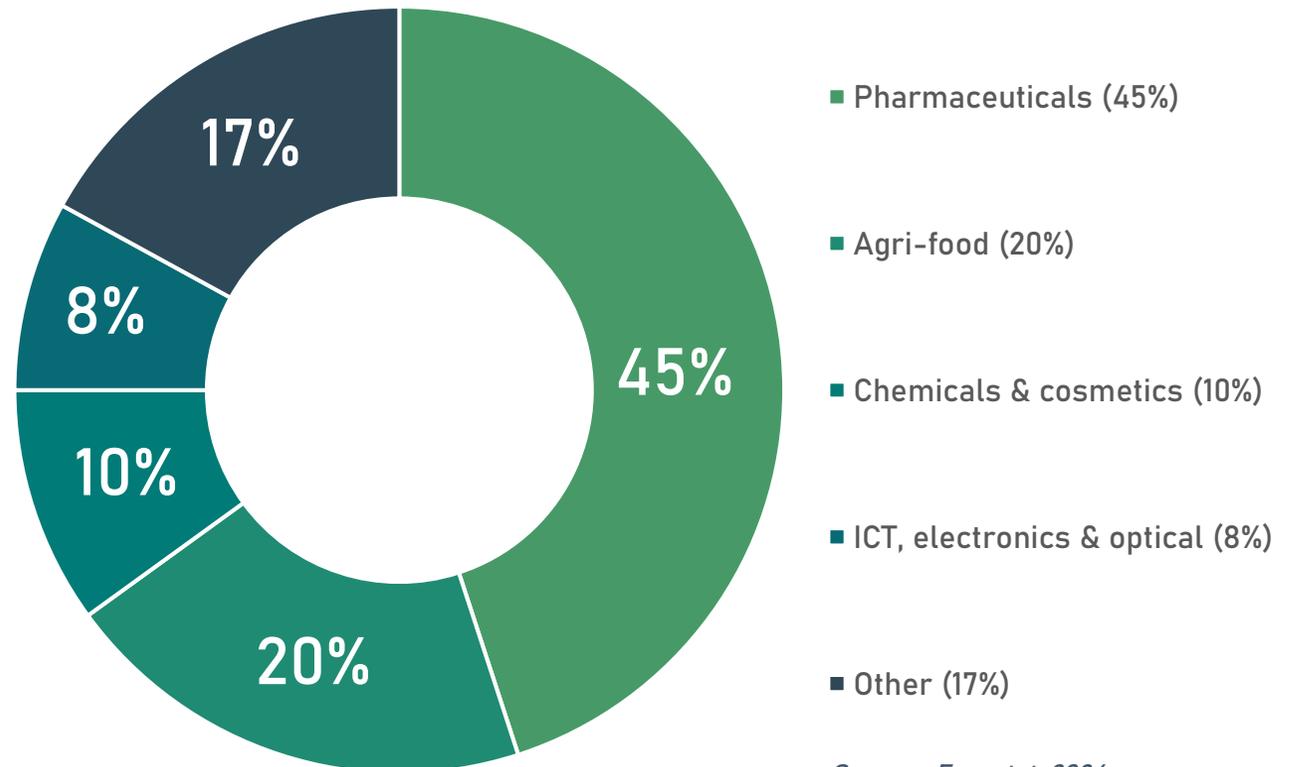


Source : Eurostat, 2024

## FRANCE AND IRELAND: €14 BN TRADE IN GOODS IN AN INTEGRATED SUPPLY CHAIN

Ireland's Goods Exports to France in 2024: €8.6 bn

In return, Irish exports are led by €3.9 bn in pharmaceuticals, €1.7 bn in agri-food and €0.9 bn in chemicals flowing tariff-free to France — reinforcing a trusted EU partnership across health, agri-food sovereignty and industry.

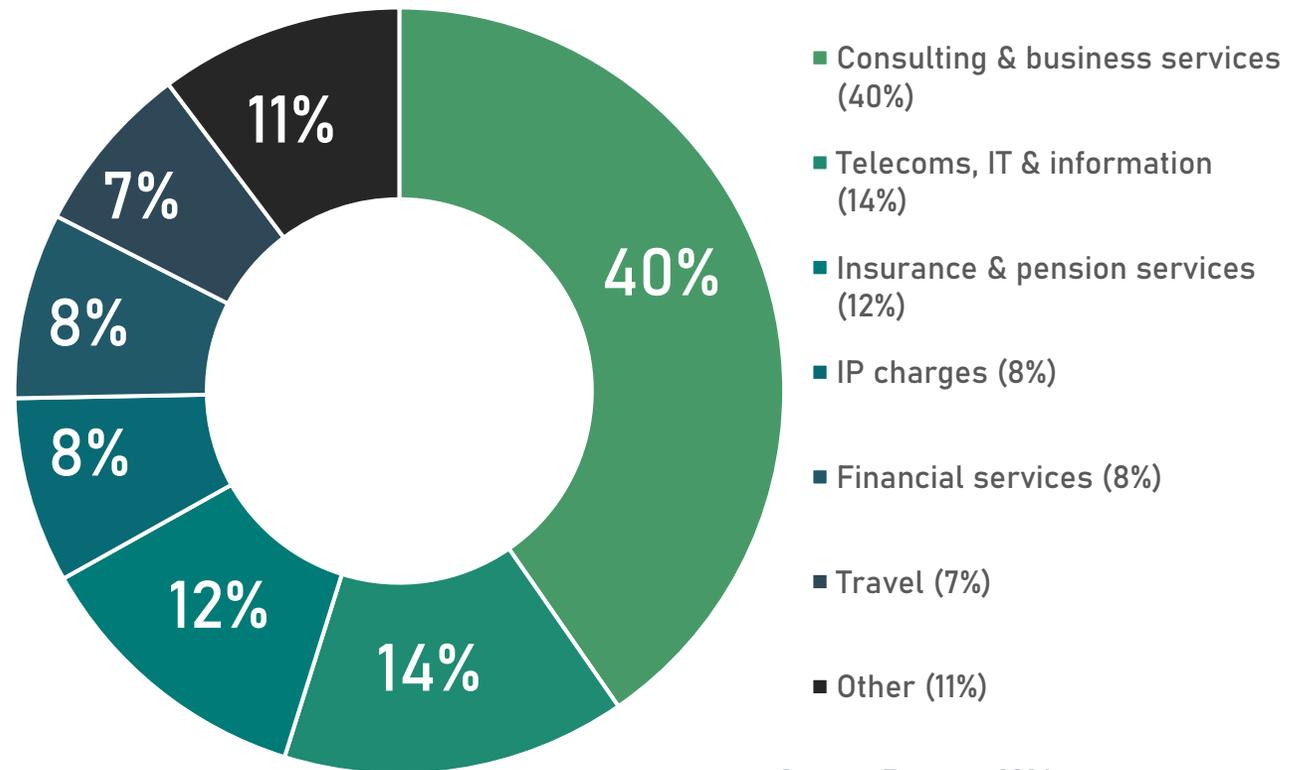


Source : Eurostat, 2024

## A €35 BN SERVICES PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON EXPERTISE SHARING

France's Services Exports  
to Ireland in 2024: €16.7 bn

French exports of services (€16.7 bn) are led by consulting (40%), ICT (15%) and insurance (12%) — showing how French firms help Irish businesses in strategic decisions, support their digital transition, and insure critical activities.



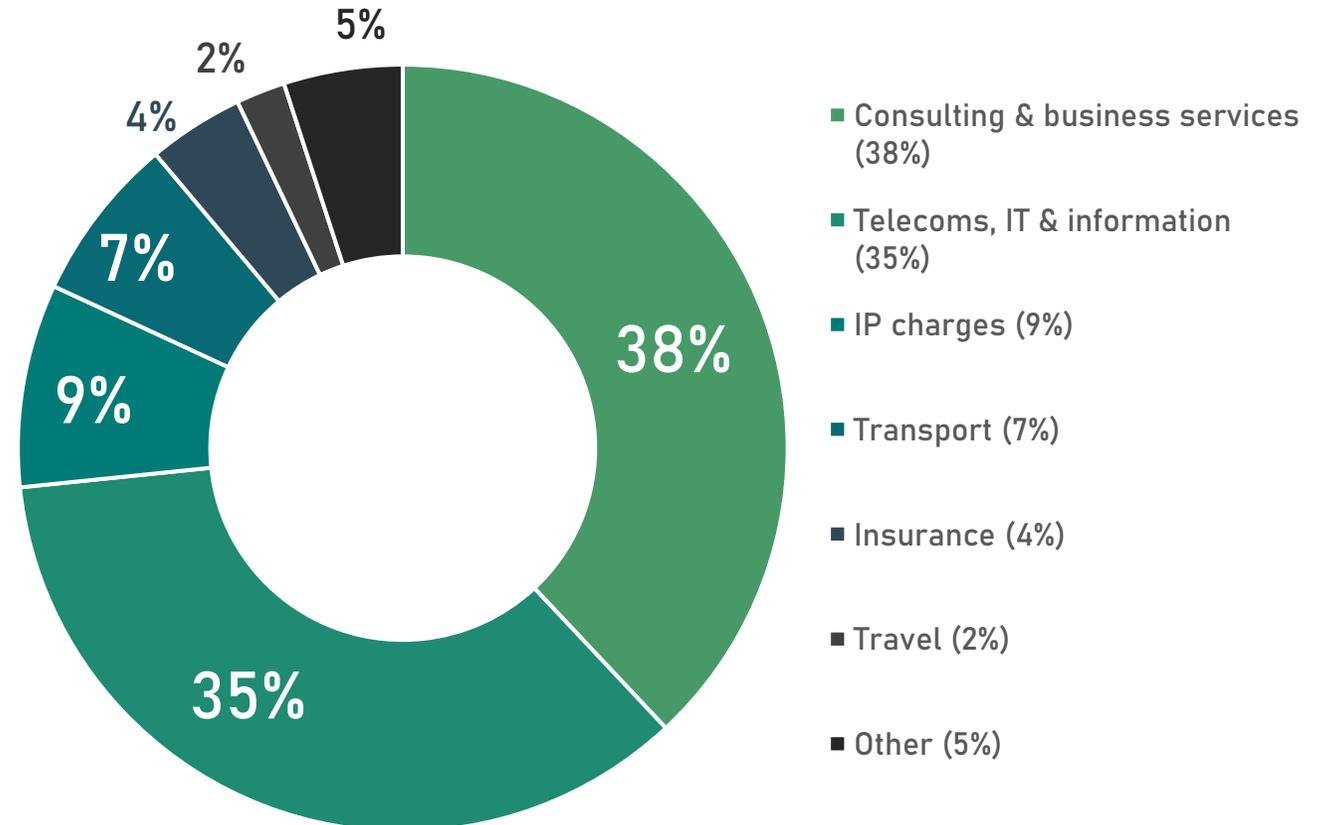
Source : Eurostat, 2024

## A €35 BN SERVICES PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON EXPERTISE SHARING

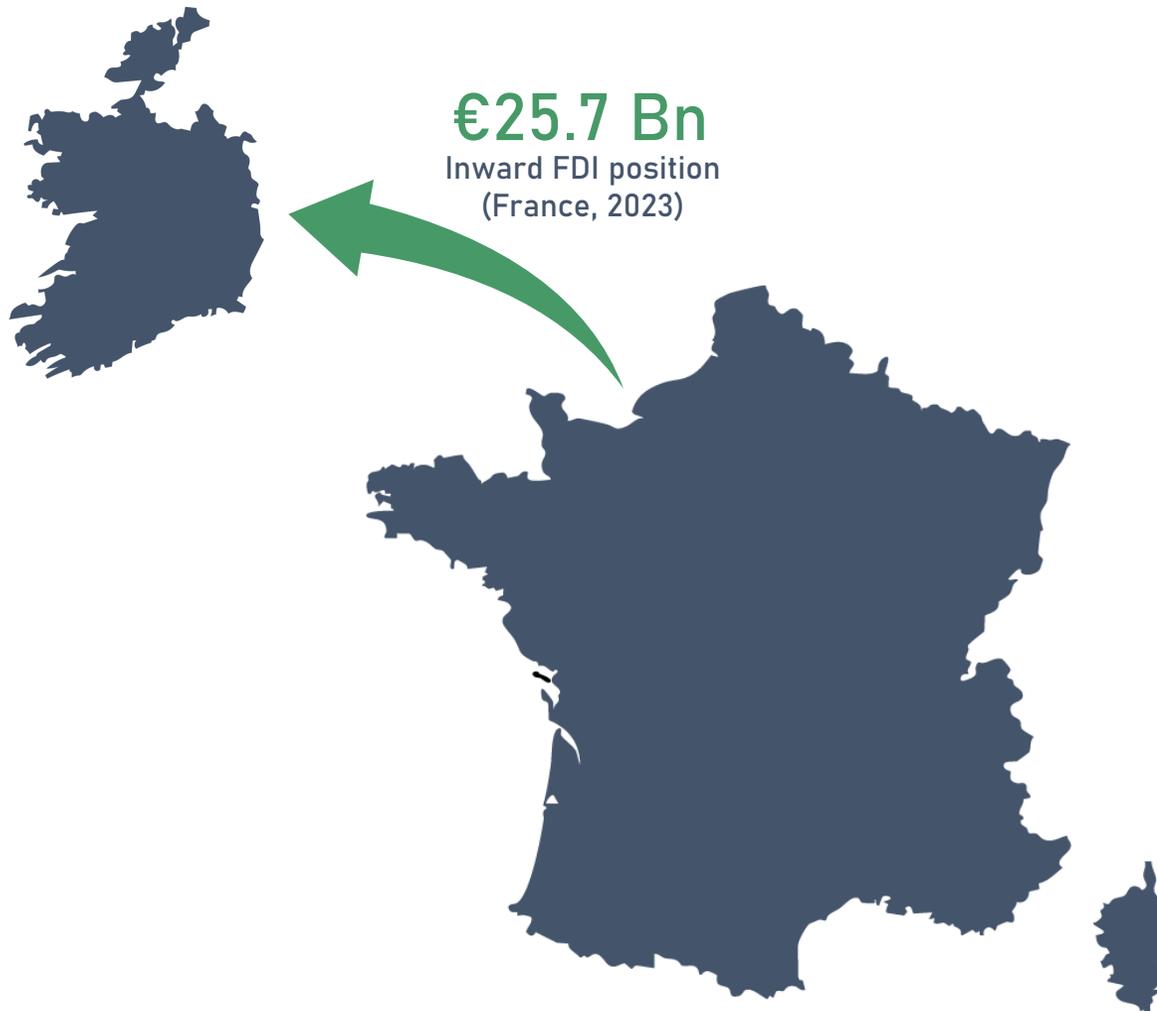
### Ireland's Services Exports to France in 2024: €18.7 bn

Irish exports (€18.7 bn) are driven by **consulting** (38%) and **ICT** (35%), with strong **IP flows** (8%), highlighting a fruitful partnership between two **high-value** services hubs.

**Travel** - France is Ireland's 4th largest inbound market with 400 000 yearly visitors.



Source : Eurostat, 2024



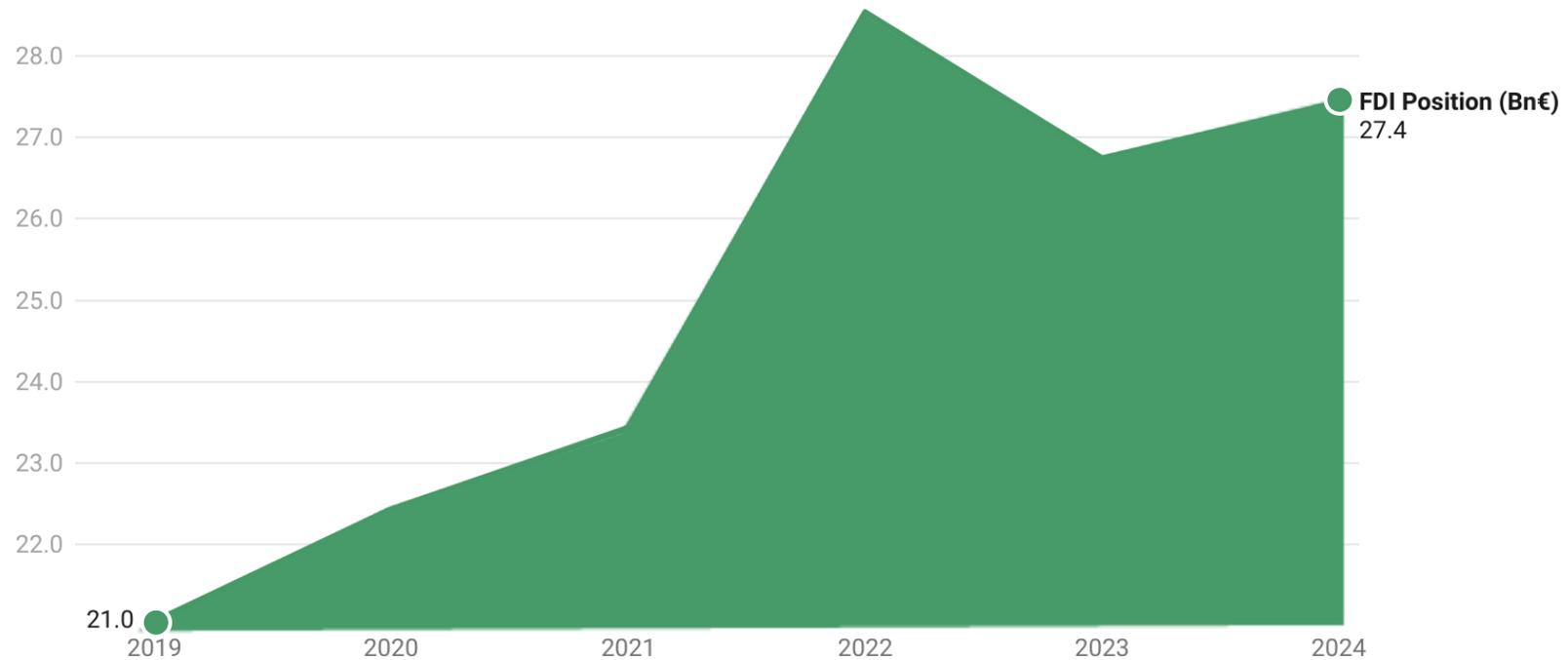
## FRANCE IS THE #1 EU INVESTOR IN IRELAND, AND 4th WORLDWIDE

INWARD FDI POSITIONS BY COUNTRY OF ULTIMATE INVESTMENT, 2023

- #1 United States (€897.3 bn)
- #2 Japan (€61.3 bn)
- #3 United Kingdom (€31.2 bn)
- #4 **France (€25.7 bn)**
- #5 China (€21 bn)

Source : CSO, June 2025

## IN 2024, FRENCH FDI STOCK IN IRELAND ROSE AGAIN AND HELD AT 30% ABOVE ITS PRE-COVID LEVEL



France's Outward FDI Position in Ireland at Year-End rose from €21.0 bn in 2019 to €27.4 bn in 2024.

Source : Banque de France (2019-2024)



PART 2

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# FRENCH COMPANIES IN IRELAND : HERE FOR GOOD



**BENJAMIN  
GRANGER**

Chief Financial Officer,  
Irish Distillers



## A WORD FROM ... Irish Distillers / Pernod Ricard

### To start off, what is the story of Irish Distillers ?

Irish Distillers was formed in 1966 when John Power & Son, John Jameson & Son and Cork Distilleries Company came together to secure the future of Irish whiskey. In 1988, we joined Pernod Ricard, bringing long-term investment and access to one of the world's most established global distribution networks.

Led by Jameson, the world's best-selling Irish whiskey and one of the top ten international spirits brands, our portfolio also includes Redbreast, Midleton Very Rare, Powers, the Spot Whiskeys and Method and Madness. Together, our whiskeys are enjoyed in over 130 markets around the world and are helping to shape a new era for Irish whiskey.

### What does being part of Pernod Ricard bring to the company?

Joining Pernod Ricard opened up new possibilities for Irish Distillers. Access to global investment and international distribution helped bring Jameson to more people, in more places, than ever before. It has supported not only our growth, but the global renaissance of Irish whiskey.

Jameson's success is the result of over 30 years of consistent, strategic brand building. This long-term approach, backed by Pernod Ricard, has introduced new generations of consumers to the smooth taste of Irish whiskey and continues to drive global momentum.

Being part of the Pernod Ricard family means we can stay true to who we are, while benefiting from global insights, shared expertise and a deep commitment to building our brands with care. It supports our mission to craft excellence, both in our whiskeys and in our people, and continues to inspire a new prominence for Irish whiskey on the world stage.

### What are your main objectives for the future?

With a legacy built over centuries, the Irish Whiskey category's reputation is rooted in quality and craft. This foundation gives us confidence as we plan for the years ahead.

Our focus remains on the continued global growth of Jameson and on expanding our presence in the prestige and luxury segments through our portfolio of premium Irish whiskeys, where there is clear potential for growth.

As more consumers are introduced to the depth, character and craft of Irish whiskey, the category is well placed to thrive in every corner of the globe.

## FRENCH COMPANIES IN IRELAND : HERE FOR GOOD



340 subsidiaries of  
French companies &  
French-owned firms



Operating across all 26  
counties and supporting  
communities throughout  
Ireland



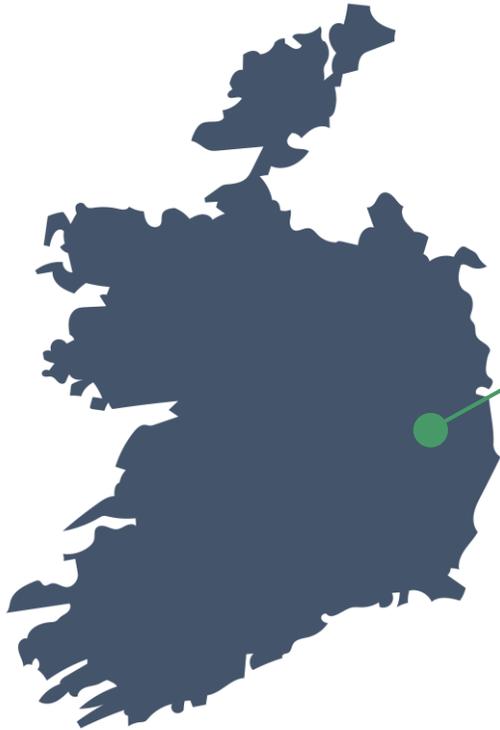
Creating 45,000 jobs and  
fuelling innovation in  
key sectors



Helping Ireland to  
address its main  
challenges, the 4Ds:

- Decarbonisation
- Digitalisation
- Deglobalisation
- Demographics

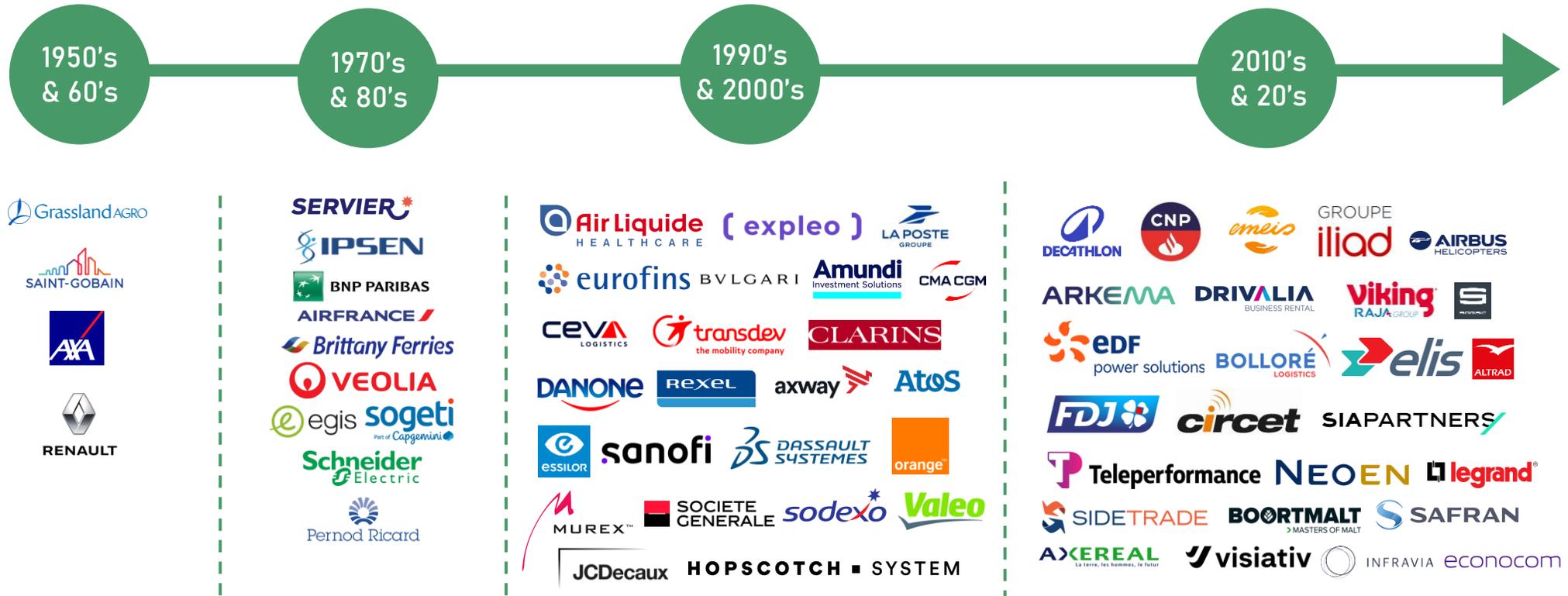
## 340 SUBSIDIARIES OF FRENCH COMPANIES & FRENCH-OWNED FIRMS IN IRELAND



33 OF THE TOP 40 FRENCH LISTED COMPANIES ARE PRESENT IN IRELAND

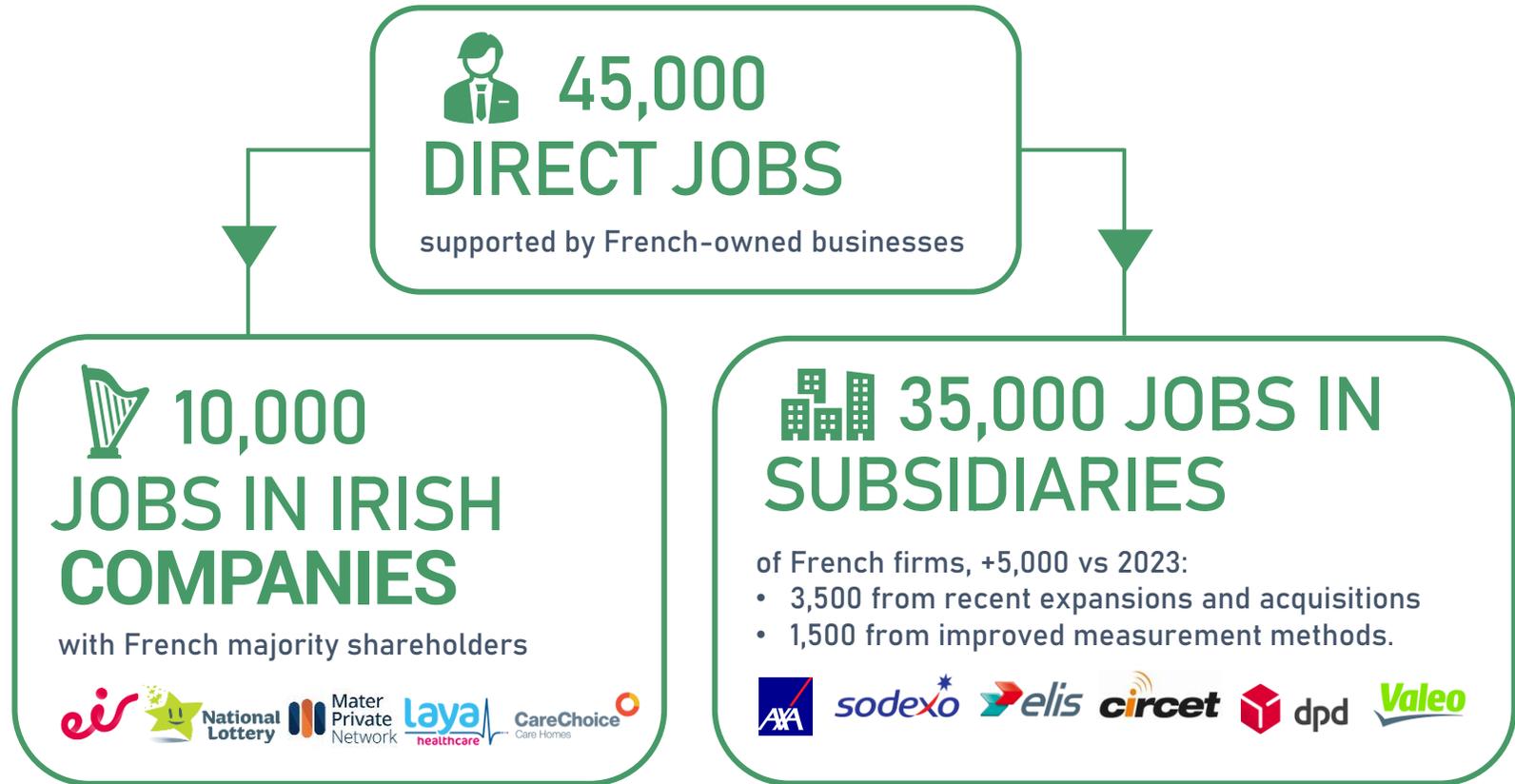
Source: Orbis database, membership records of the France Ireland Chamber of Commerce (FICC), and the French Embassy's professional contact network.

# FROM PIONEERS TO A GROWING WAVE: HERE FOR DECADES AND HERE TO STAY



Source: French Embassy / FICC 2025 survey of French companies, public informations.

## FRENCH COMPANIES: A MAJOR EMPLOYER IN IRELAND



Source: Orbis database, French Embassy calculations

## OPERATING IN ALL 26 COUNTIES, FRENCH COMPANIES SUPPORT IRISH COMMUNITIES



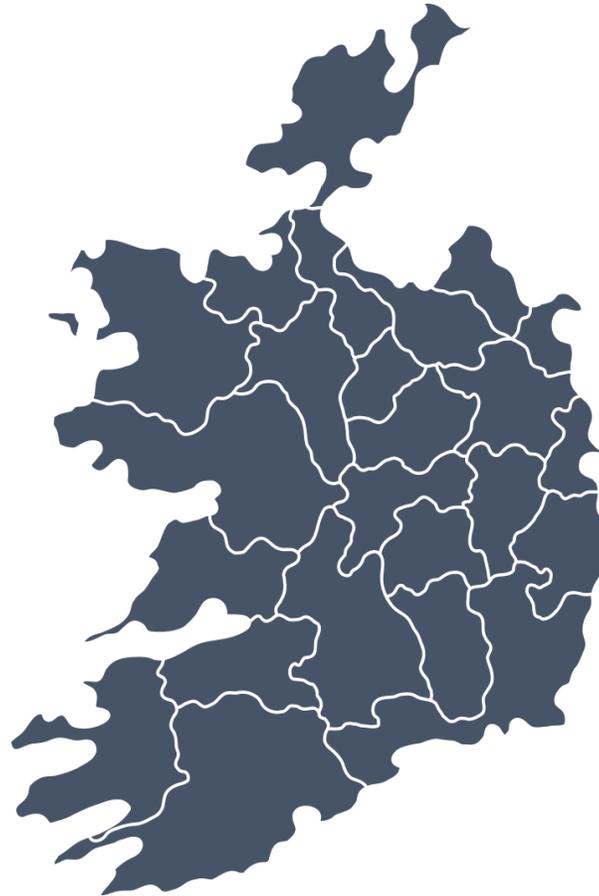
Delivers parcels nationwide through 37 depots, at least one in every county



Ireland's leading electrical wholesaler with 24 stores nationwide



A nationwide insurance network with 24 local branches



Majority owner of Ireland's largest telecom operator, with fibre coverage spanning 99% of Irish premises



Ireland's leading on-site services provider with 25 education contracts supporting 44,000 students nationwide.

Source: Orbis database, French Embassy calculations.



Chief Executive  
Officer, AXA Ireland



## A WORD FROM ... AXA

### To start off, What led AXA to Ireland?

AXA's entry into Ireland was part of its broader international strategy to expand into markets with strong growth potential and cultural alignment. Ireland's open economy, skilled workforce and close ties with France, made it a strategic choice.

AXA's significant presence in the Irish insurance market began in 1999, with the acquisition of Guardian Royal Exchange (GRE), which had previously purchased PMPA, a major Irish insurer, although our roots in Ireland date as far back as 1722. This move aligned with AXA Group's global ambition to be a leading insurer in both retail and commercial lines.

### AXA is now one of the biggest insurance companies in Ireland: tell us more about your expansion in Ireland so far?

Over the years, AXA has grown to become a trusted brand in Ireland, offering a wide range of insurance products, including motor, home, farm, and small business insurance.

We serve over 2.1 million customers, about 30% of the population across Ireland, and cover one-third of the motor insurance market, one-sixth of the home insurance market, and one-third of the private medical insurance market, following our acquisition of Laya Healthcare in 2023.

### AXA has a footprint across the country: how important is it to reach your objectives?

AXA's nationwide footprint is essential to achieving our objectives, as it allows us to serve a diverse customer base effectively and build strong connections with local communities.

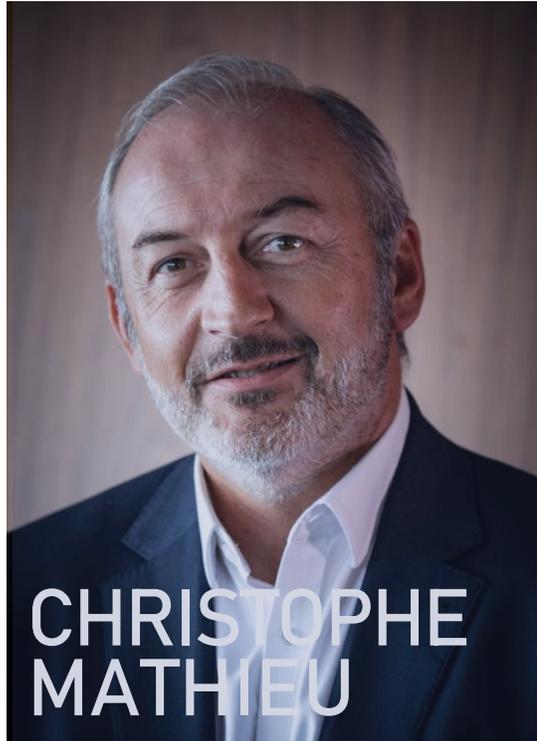
AXA has become a trusted name in Ireland, employing over 3,000 colleagues. Our fully integrated distribution model incorporates digital, telephone, 24 branches in the Republic of Ireland, 10 branches in Northern Ireland and 5 healthcare clinics, as well as local brokers and partners. This ensures accessibility and a personalised service for our customers.

Our local presence enables us to deliver tailored insurance solutions, address protection gaps, and engage in community-focused initiatives like AXA Parks and the AXA Local Community Awards.

By combining local service with the global strength of the AXA Group, we are well positioned to meet the evolving needs of our customers and contribute to a greener, more sustainable future.

# TO FACE DEGLOBALISATION, FRENCH COMPANIES SUPPORT IRELAND'S OPENNESS TO THE WORLD





Chief Executive Officer,  
Brittany Ferries



## A WORD FROM ... Brittany Ferries

### *To start off, what is the story of Brittany Ferries?*

Brittany Ferries was founded in 1972 by Breton farmers to export their production of vegetables in the UK and Ireland. Today, the same farming cooperatives control the company that has developed a complete network of passenger and freight maritime routes between UK/Ireland/France and Spain operating 10 vessels with French flag and French seafarers.

### *Could you tell us more about your activities in Ireland so far ?*

Historically the company had always operated a seasonal crossing between Cork and Roscoff. Since Brexit we have opened new routes between Rosslare and Bilbao ( 2 round trips a week) and Cherbourg (7 rounds trip a week). We have also doubled the service between Roscoff and Cork so in total BF offers 11 weekly departures to/from Ireland. This very significant offering means that Brittany Ferries is a key operator for Irish economy connecting it with its European neighbours.

### *What are your project to help connecting Ireland going forward?*

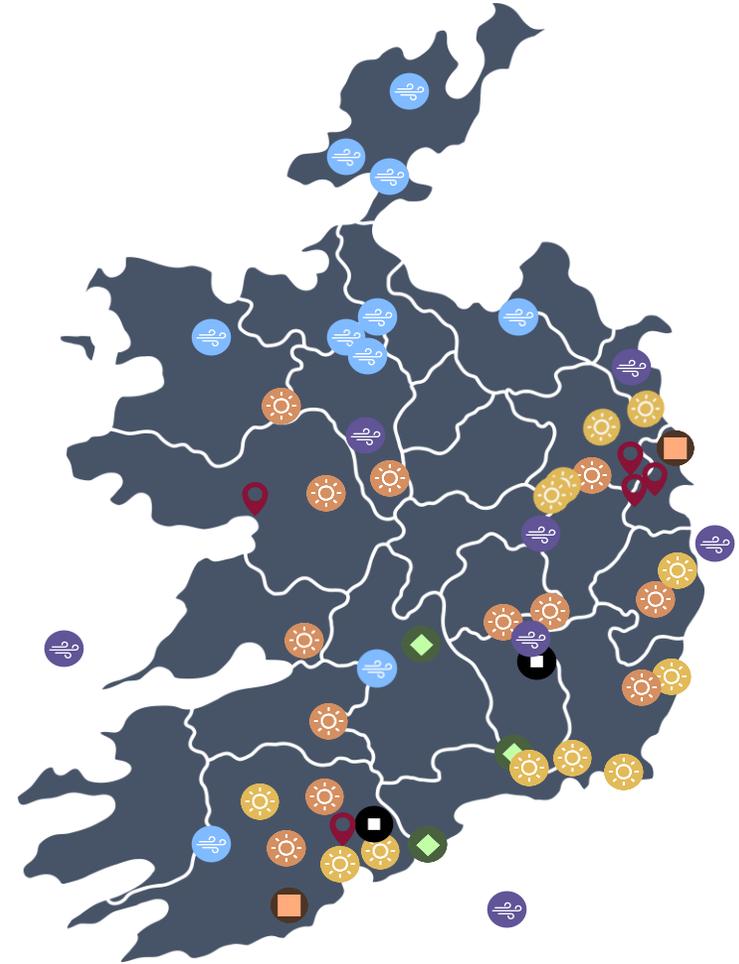
Based on this offering we have also created a rail service between Bayonne and Cherbourg that perfectly complement the maritime service to Ireland. There is also a daily connection between Cherbourg and Rosslare. Our project is now to consolidate and further grow our passenger and freight traffic to enhance the connectivity of the Irish economy and people with mainland Europe. On the passenger side, we have a great collaboration with Tourism Ireland and aim to lure more French and Spanish visitors to visit the island, particularly in shoulder seasons, capitalising on concepts like slow tourism and the appeal of travelling by sea with your own vehicles. On the freight side, our network with daily services will allow Irish businesses to develop trading with Continental Europe with the guarantee of a regular and reliable sea links.

# FRENCH COMPANIES HELP DECARBONISE IRELAND

In 2025, French-linked companies operate nearly **680 MW of renewables** in Ireland — about 10% of the nation's green capacity.

By 2030, French-link companies are expected to develop **~6.1 GW of renewable energy projects** across Ireland.

- Wind Farm, operational
- Solar Farm, operational
- Biogaz
- Battery Storage, planned
- Wind Farm, planned/consented/under construction
- Solar Farm, planned/under construction
- Recycling & Waste, operational
- Office





Chief Financial Officer,  
Schneider Electric Ireland



## A WORD FROM ... Schneider Electric

### *To start off, could you tell us what your company is all about?*

Schneider Electric is a global industrial technology company with a strong focus on energy management and automation. What really sets us apart is that we don't just provide products - we deliver end-to-end solutions and services that help industries improve efficiency while also advancing their sustainability goals.

At the heart of it, Schneider Electric is about enabling industries and communities to use energy more efficiently and sustainably, and we're excited to bring that mission to life here in Ireland.

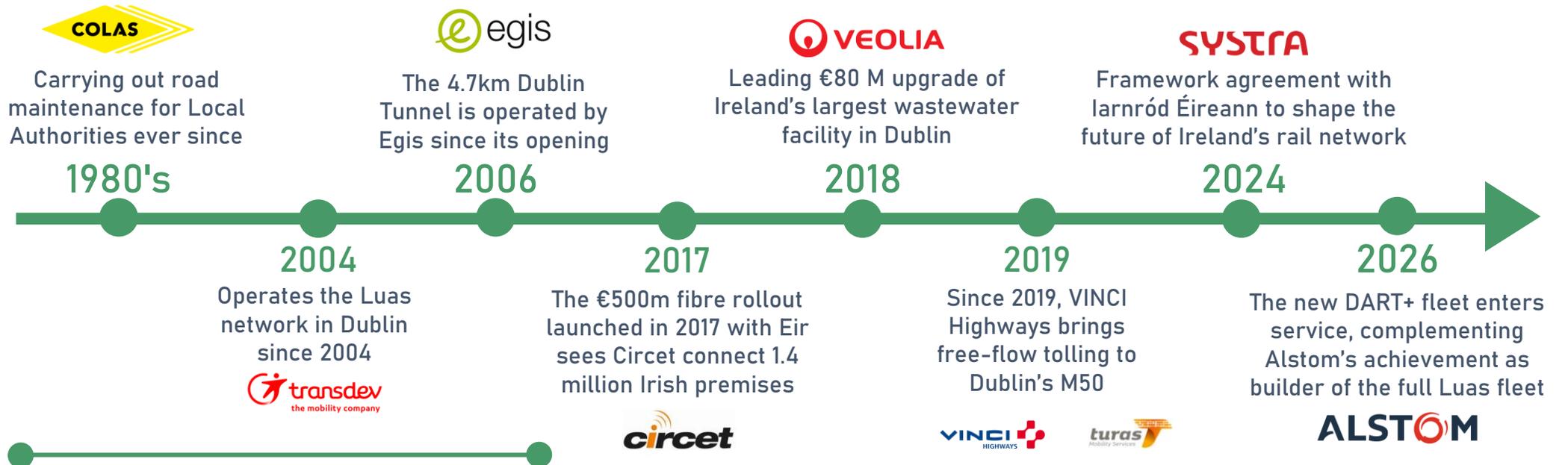
### *Why did you choose to expand in Ireland?*

Schneider Electric is expanding in Ireland, where its expertise and solutions are highly relevant to key sectors such as medtech, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, and data centres. As the country faces mounting energy challenges, the resilience of its grid will depend on smarter, decentralised systems powered by microgrids and digital technologies — areas where Schneider already brings proven capabilities. Nearly half of UK and Irish businesses now see energy security as a substantial risk, creating strong demand for solutions that combine resilience with sustainability, efficiency, and digitalisation. Ireland therefore represents not only a growth market but also an opportunity for Schneider Electric to support the national energy transition while diversifying its own portfolio.

### *What projects are you currently working on that will help decarbonize the Irish economy?*

We are driving Ireland's energy transition through advanced energy management and automation technologies, supported by its global network of over 100 innovation hubs. This scale enables Ireland to benefit directly from breakthroughs in areas such as AI, energy efficiency, and data centre design. A key example is Schneider's partnership with NVIDIA, which is advancing R&D in power, cooling, and high-density systems, alongside new AI-ready solutions like the EcoStruxure™ Pod and Rack Infrastructure. These innovations are particularly relevant for Ireland, where rising electricity demand from data centres is pressuring the grid, making smart, sustainable technologies vital to strengthening resilience and accelerating decarbonisation.

# FRENCH COMPANIES DELIVER ON IRELAND'S INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



And many others, supplying critical equipment and materials to build faster, smarter and greener!





**STEVE  
PREECE**

Chief Executive Officer,  
Egis Ireland



## A WORD FROM ... Egis

### *To start off, could you tell us what your company is all about?*

Egis has been active in Ireland since 1994 and is the largest multi-disciplinary consultancy, engineering, and operations firm in the country based in over 16 locations with 650 staff. Current commissions include the operations and maintenance of the Dublin Port Tunnel and the Jack Lynch Tunnel in Cork, managing 470 km of Ireland's motorways, and working on the design and delivery of major national infrastructure projects, in transport (rail, road, light rail, aviation), water, energy, housing, health, and mobility services.

In 2023, Egis acquired JB Barry & Partners, an Irish engineering practice with a track record in major projects, including the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant in Dublin, the NM20 Cork to Limerick road project, and the N17/N18 Gort to Tuam PPP scheme in Galway.

### *Why did you choose to expand in Ireland?*

Egis is growing its operations in Ireland to play a major part in contributing to the country's most significant period of infrastructure investment in decades. Opportunities across transport, water, and energy sectors are transformative, as set out in the government's National Development Plan (NDP) and Project Ireland 2040. By blending our local expertise with international experience, and strengthening capacity through acquisitions, recruitment, and strategic contract wins, Egis is positioned to deliver infrastructure that will shape Ireland's future and assist its competitiveness.

### *How your company supports Ireland's infrastructure goals?*

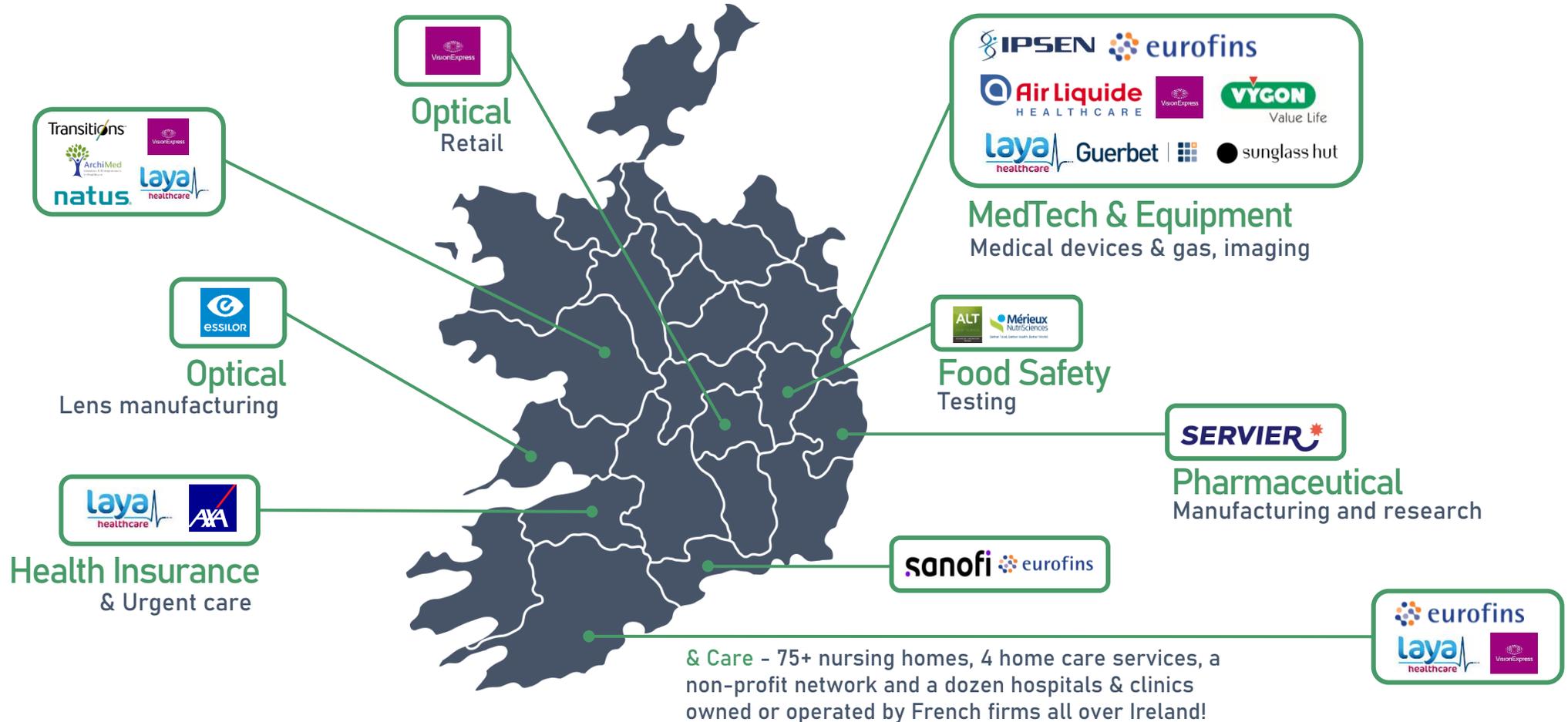
Egis works in sustainable mobility, modern transport networks, decentralised, resilient and energy efficient infrastructure, renewable energy integration, and low carbon infrastructure aligns with Ireland's climate targets and government decarbonisation objectives.

We invest in smart digital infrastructure and data driven operational systems for tunnels, traffic management, asset management and monitoring, allowing digital technologies to optimise energy and transport systems. Egis' planning and design approach anticipates changing demographics, ensuring infrastructure is responsive to shifts in population distribution, workforce needs, and regional development priorities.

We offer project management, consultancy, technical innovation, and O&M support for critical assets such as tunnels, roads, railways, and water facilities. The continued investment in our Irish workforce, capabilities, and alliances positions Egis as a strategic partner for a sustainable, regionally balanced, resilient and climate-smart Ireland.

# FRENCH COMPANIES DELIVER HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS AND ASSIST IRELAND IN ITS DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

THE FRENCH ECONOMIC FOOTPRINT IN IRELAND





Chairperson,  
Siel Bleu Ireland



## A WORD FROM ... Siel Bleu

*To start off, could you tell us what your company is all about?*

Siel Bleu is a non-profit organisation founded in France in 1997 by two sports science graduates, Jean-Michel Ricard and Jean-Daniel Muller. They recognised the power of physical activity to prevent illness, promote healthy ageing, and improve quality of life, especially for older adults and people living with chronic conditions. Today, Siel Bleu has grown across Europe, supporting hundreds of thousands of people each week through tailored exercise programmes. Our mission is to make physical activity inclusive and accessible, focusing not on performance but on participation, prevention, and social connection. Ultimately, we aim to reduce health inequalities, foster independence, and enhance wellbeing.

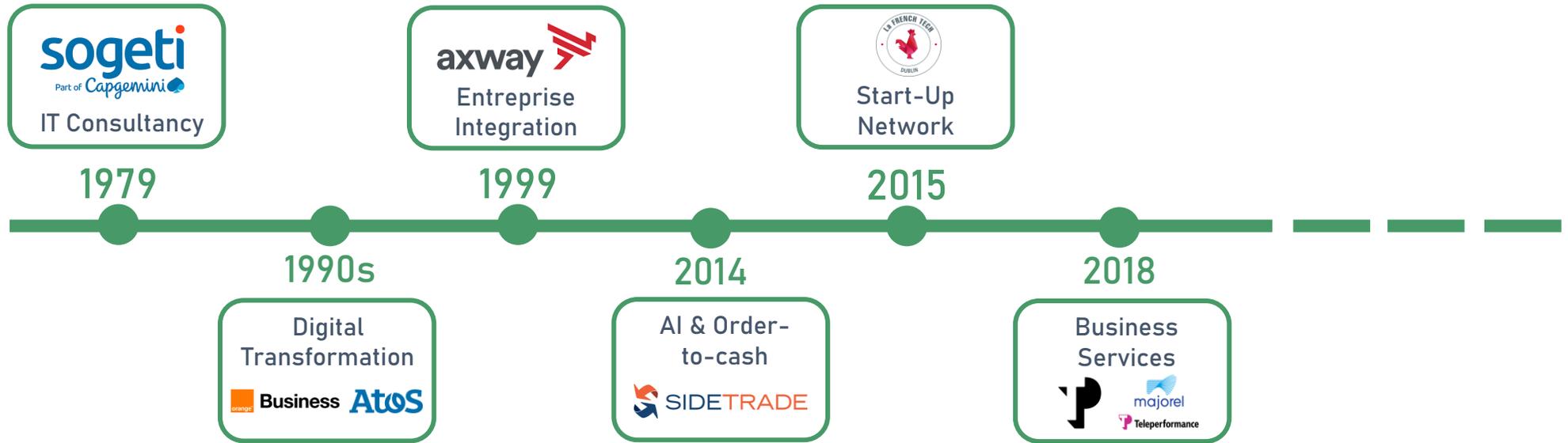
*What motivated you to establish activities in Ireland?*

Siel Bleu expanded into Ireland in 2010 in response to a growing need for innovative approaches to healthy ageing and chronic disease prevention. At the time, there were few structured and affordable exercise programmes tailored to older adults or those living with chronic conditions. Ireland's health priorities—focusing increasingly on prevention, community care, and wellbeing—made it a natural environment for our model. As a non-profit, we saw the opportunity to deliver both health impact and social value, ensuring vulnerable groups would not be left behind. Our involvement in Ashoka's Change Nation initiative further reinforced Ireland as a place to pioneer social innovation.

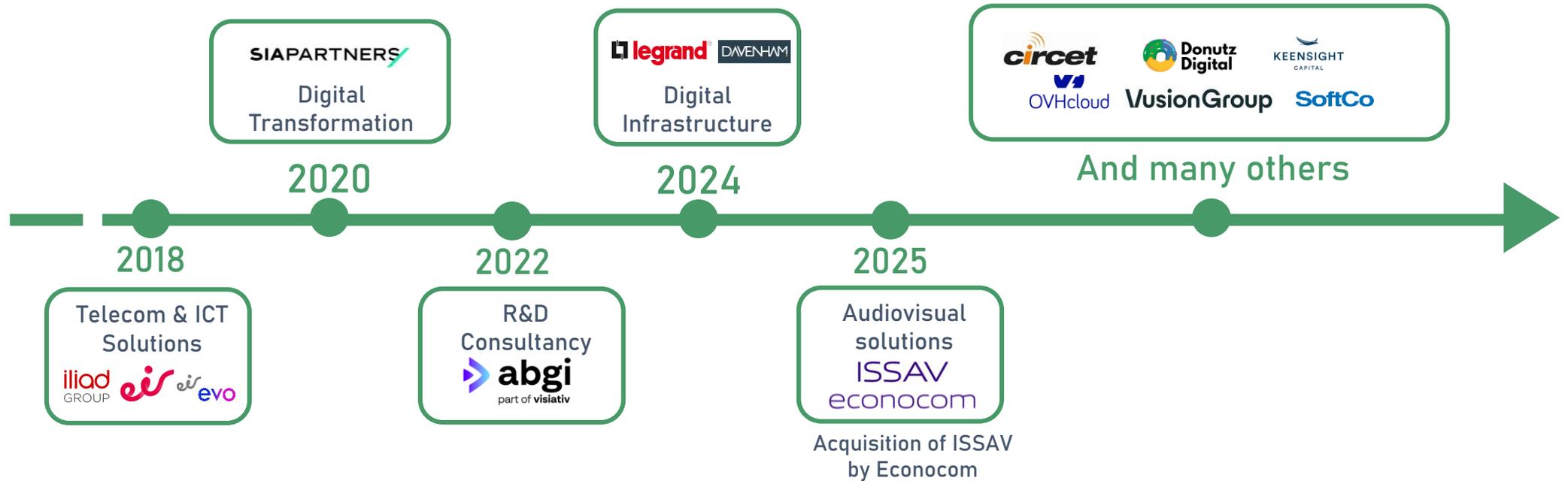
*As Ireland faces the challenges of an ageing society, what role does Siel Bleu Ireland play in fostering healthy ageing?*

Ireland is one of the fastest ageing countries in Europe, with the number of people over 65 set to double in the coming decades. Siel Bleu Ireland plays a vital role in supporting this demographic shift by providing safe, evidence-based exercise programmes that help older adults maintain mobility, independence, and quality of life. Our activities not only prevent frailty, falls, and disease progression, but also reduce pressure on hospitals and long-term care services. Just as importantly, our group sessions create social connections that combat loneliness and strengthen communities. By focusing on prevention and inclusion, Siel Bleu Ireland directly supports the country's healthy ageing priorities and the wider shift towards community-based care.

# FRENCH COMPANIES DRIVE IRELAND'S DIGITALISATION



# FRENCH COMPANIES DRIVE IRELAND'S DIGITALISATION





Chief Executive Officer,  
eir



## A WORD FROM ... eir

*eir is a popular brand to everyone in Ireland; can you tell us something that people should know about it ?*

eir is Ireland's leading telecommunications provider, serving 2 million customers across fibre, mobile, broadband, and TV. Its fibre network reaches over 1.4 million homes, while its 5G covers 99% of the population. In 2025, eir became the first in Ireland to launch Wi-Fi 7 and 5Gbps residential speeds. Beyond telecoms, it employs 3,000 people directly and 3,000 indirectly, underpins €172 billion in digital economic activity, and supports the National Broadband Plan. eir also invests in sustainability, holds the Business Working Responsibly Mark, and has partnered with Special Olympics Ireland for over 40 years.

*In what ways has French investment strengthened or transformed your business?*

The 2017 majority acquisition by Xavier Niel's NJJ Telecom transformed eir. Since then, €2 billion in capex has funded Ireland's largest fibre rollout (now available to over 1.4 million homes and businesses) and a 5G network reaching 99% of the population. Customer service was overhauled with hubs in Sligo, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford, plus new back-office technology. These efforts made eir one of Europe's best-performing telecoms companies, with 11 consecutive quarters of growth. The eir team works closely with NJJ on a daily basis, leveraging the group's global telecommunications expertise to launch groundbreaking services such as Wi-Fi 7.

*What initiatives are you pursuing to support and accelerate Ireland's digital transition?*

eir is at the heart of Ireland's digital transformation. The widespread availability of high-speed fixed and mobile internet is a critical foundation for enabling individuals, businesses, and organisations to embrace digital connectivity.

eir's rollout of fibre broadband and 5G mobile availability, to 1.4 million premises and 99% of the population respectively, has helped Ireland become one of the leading countries in Europe in meeting EU Digital Decade targets. Ireland now has the third-highest level of internet use in Europe, while 96% of Irish internet users made online purchases in 2024—the highest rate in Europe.

Cutting-edge services like Wi-Fi 7 and 5Gbps speeds further enhance the user experience and support Ireland's digital future. In addition, eir's business division, eir evo, is a leading telecommunications and ICT managed services provider, offering end-to-end digital solutions for businesses. These include managed IT services, cloud solutions, cybersecurity, and consulting services.

PART 3

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# INSIGHTS FROM LEADING FRENCH COMPANIES IN IRELAND



## WHY DID YOUR COMPANY CHOOSE IRELAND?

### #1 Integration within the Single Market / Eurozone

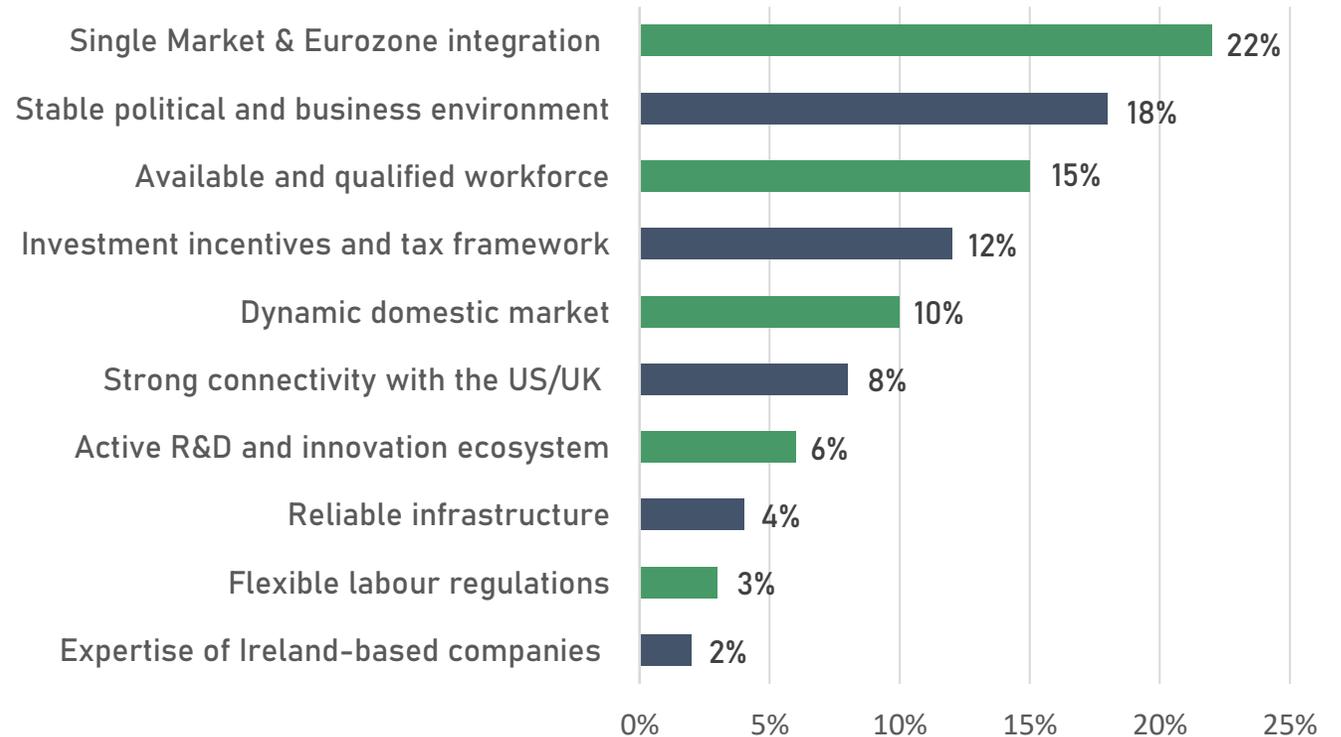
Access to the EU Single Market and the Eurozone ensures seamless trade and financial stability

### #2 Stability of the political and business environment

Ireland is seen by French companies as a reliable location for business operations

### #3 Available and qualified workforce

Highly qualified workforce supports innovation and international operations



Source: French Embassy / FICC 2025 survey of French companies

# WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF FRENCH COMPANIES ON THE IRISH ECONOMY?

## #1 Creating high-quality and skilled jobs

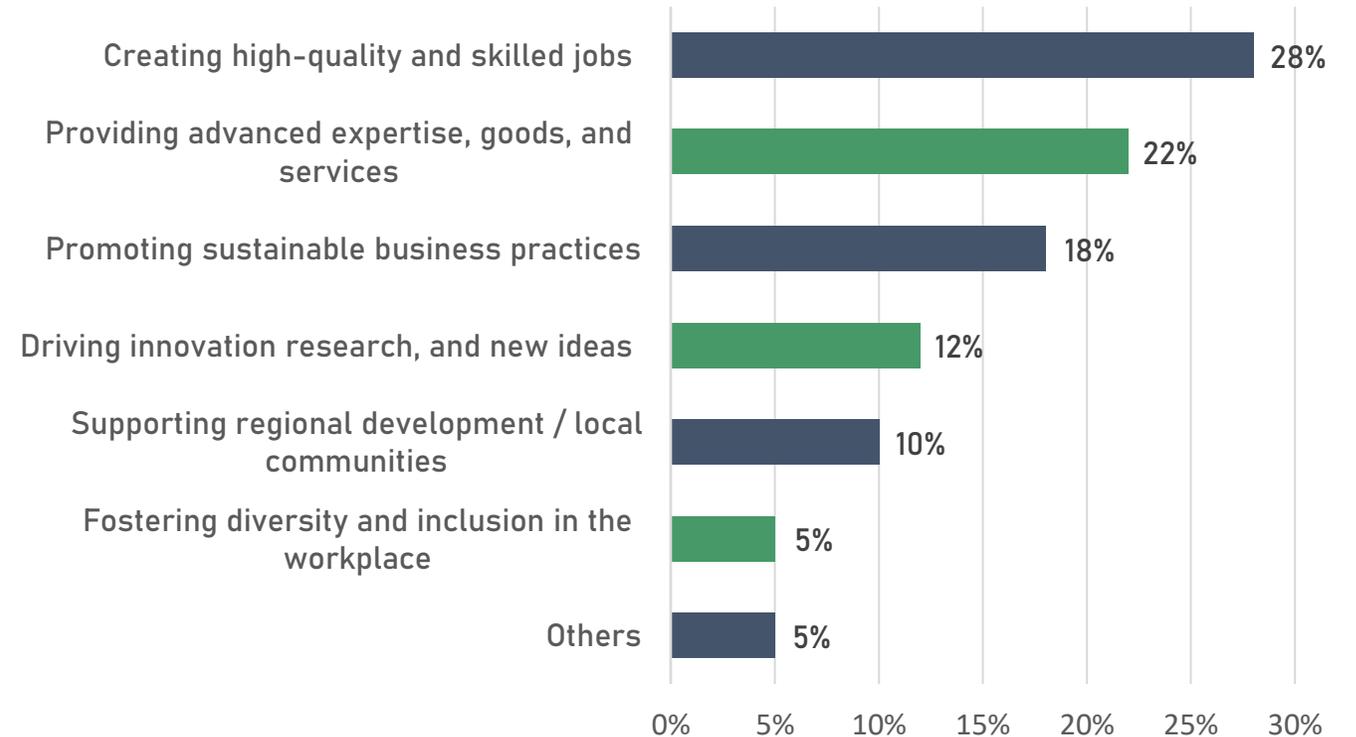
French companies contribute to employment by generating well-paid, skilled positions across multiple sectors.

## #2 Providing advanced expertise, goods, and services

French firms bring cutting-edge technologies and know-how that enhance Ireland's industrial and service capabilities

## #3 Promoting sustainable business practices

French companies foster innovation and sustainability through responsible investment and green business models



Source: French Embassy / FICC 2025 survey of French companies

# WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY FRENCH COMPANIES IN IRELAND?

## #1 Access to talent & staff retention

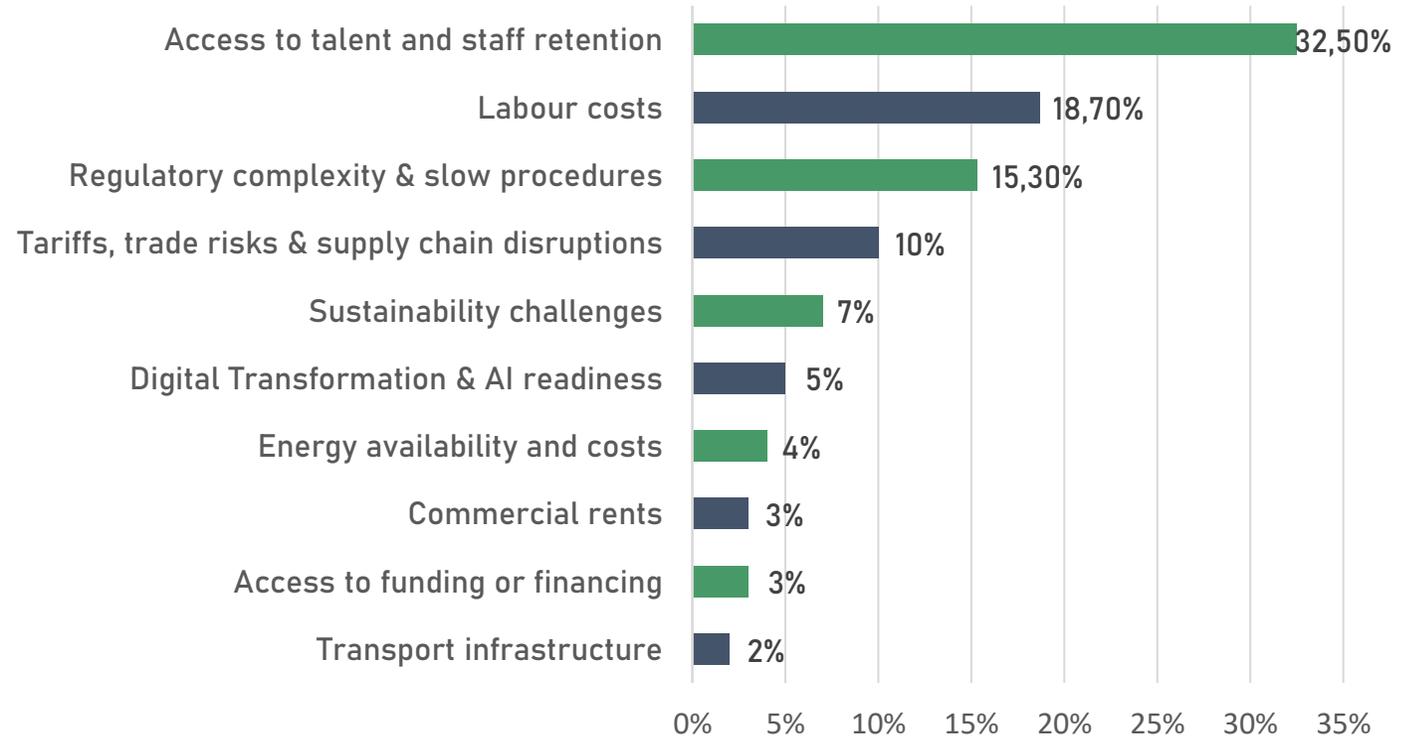
French companies face growing challenges in attracting and retaining skilled employees in competitive sectors.

## #2 Labour costs

Rising labour costs are increasingly seen as a pressure point for maintaining competitiveness.

## #3 Regulatory complexity

Regulatory and administrative procedures are perceived as increasingly time-consuming and complex.



Source: French Embassy / FICC 2025 survey of French companies

## HOW FRENCH COMPANIES PERCEIVE THE CURRENT BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN IRELAND?

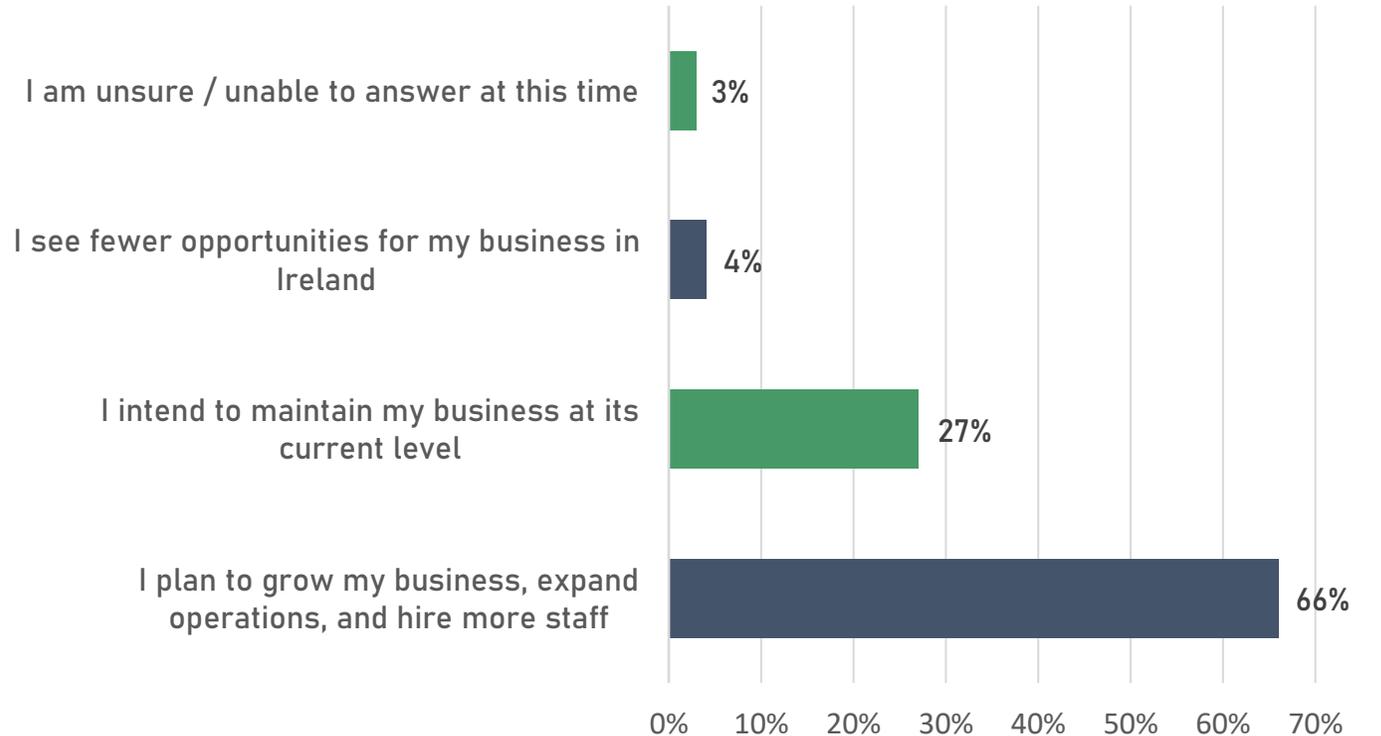
*Survey. "What are your prospects for the future of your business in Ireland?"*

**2/3**

of the surveyed companies say they want to grow their business, expand operation & hire more staff

**93%**

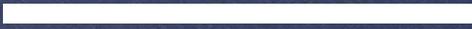
of the surveyed companies intend to maintain or grow their activities



Source: French Embassy / FICC 2025 survey of French companies



PART 4



# RECOMMENDATIONS

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BUSINESS LEADERS IN IRELAND



## #CONTINUE TO MASSIVELY INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Accelerate on housing investments
- Continue to invest in maritime and energy links with France
- Fast track planning for large infrastructure projects of national importance
- Deliver on solar and offshore wind energy



## #STAY COMPETITIVE

- Moderate cost of doing business
- Expand your sector strategy to new industries like AI
- Reduce the cost of living for employees
- Provide certainty through decisive actions
- Simplify regulation



## #TRAIN THE FUTURE TALENTS

- Educate in Science and AI
- Retain talents in Ireland
- Advocate creative leadership
- Educate and train the trades to support infrastructure and housing
- Make accommodation available and affordable at third level



## #DEVELOP EUROPEAN CAPITAL MARKETS

- Unlock innovation funding
- Provide funding to scale SME sector



President of the France Ireland Chamber of Commerce (FICC) & Group CEO of Perennial Freight



President of French Trade Advisors in Ireland

## A CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH BUSINESS LEADERS IN IRELAND

### *Could you tell us about your organisation ?*

CS: The France Ireland Chamber of Commerce supports, enables and empowers strategic partnerships within the Franco-Irish business community in Ireland. With a network of 170+ member companies, FICC:

- Creates a strong sense of value for belonging to the Franco-Irish business community via an extensive programme of networking events, thematic and sectorial Working Groups, and a webinar programme
- Enables the development of Franco- Irish business by providing services that fast-track French companies into Ireland
- Delivers a strong profile with media and the wider community to ensure the chamber voice is “bigger and louder”.

SC: The French Trade Advisors in Ireland are an independent group of French business leaders, appointed by the French prime minister to:

- Provide unbiased collective economic intelligence to the French ambassador
- Promote France as an attractive investment destination for Irish business
- Help French companies to develop and succeed in Ireland
- Train the next generation of international business leaders

### *What is top of the mind of your members today?*

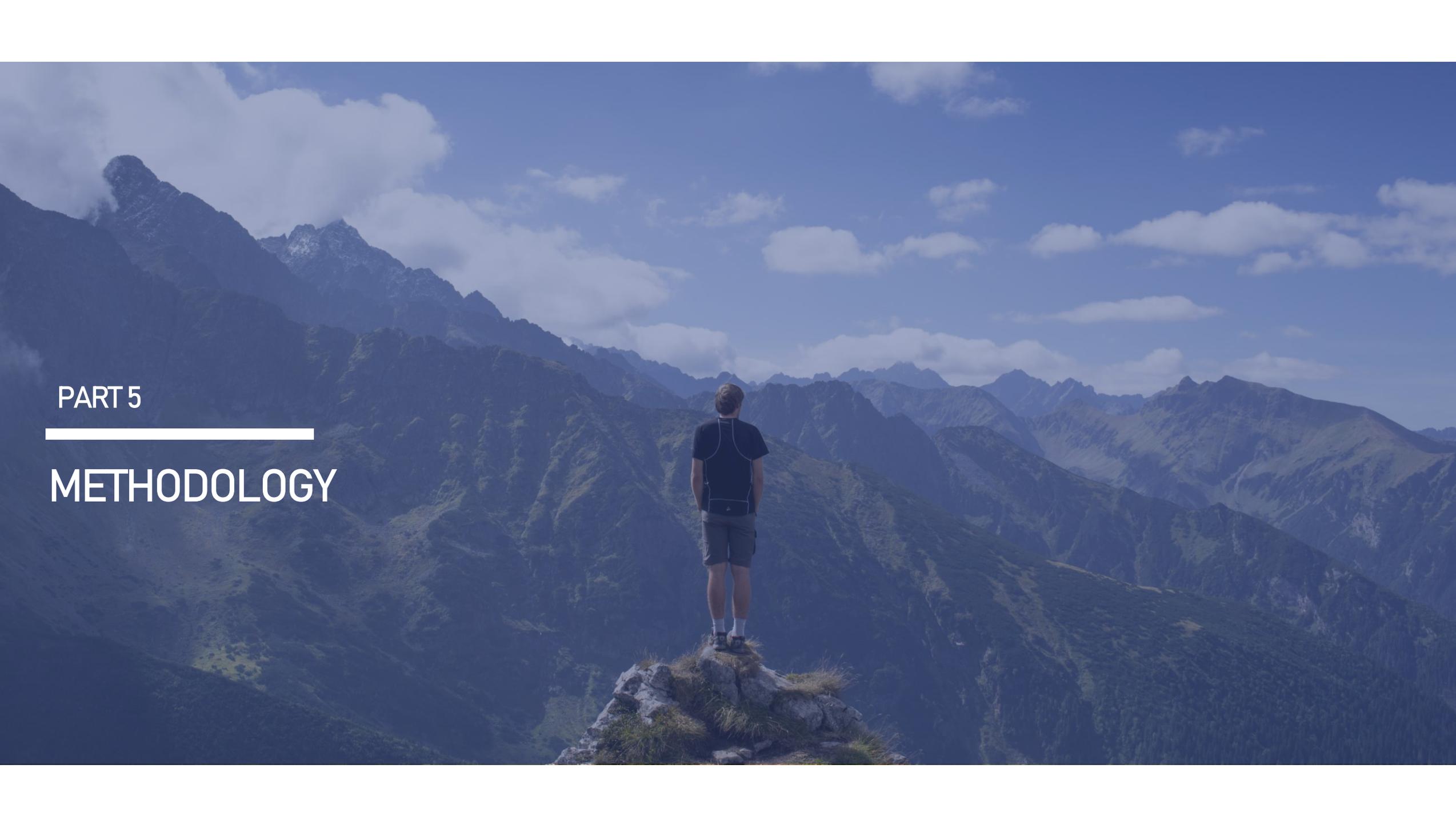
CS: Talent retention, accomodation & living crisis, and constant changes & geopolitical instability.

SC: Managing the changing trade landscape and retaining talents are the main challenges faced by our members. Agility is key and rethinking supply chains within EU is critical. Reducing the cost of living is critical to avoid shortage of talents for French businesses.

### *What is your vision of the future ?*

CS: The geopolitical dial has changed which has led to uncertainty. However, the European Union is the largest and longest established market in the world, so we have the knowledge and experience to manage our future. Competitiveness is the key. France is the No.1 investor from the EU in Ireland, so by replicating the Franco Irish relationship across the 27 states we will see a stronger, united, and competitive Europe.

SC: With the new global trade challenges, it is more important than ever to develop economic links and self-sufficiency within the EU. France, being Ireland's closest neighbour is the natural EU gateway for local businesses across sectors and industries. From tech innovation to industrial output, we hope to see an increase of the trade relationship.

A person is standing on a rocky peak, looking out over a vast mountain range. The person is wearing a dark t-shirt and shorts. The mountains are covered in green vegetation, and the sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a wide, panoramic view of a mountain landscape.

PART 5

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# METHODOLOGY

# METHODOLOGY

## 1/ Figures on trade

We rely on the French Customs (Douanes) database for trade in goods, and on Eurostat for trade in services, with France as the reporting country. According to French data, the balance of trade in goods between France and Ireland shows a deficit for France, while Irish statistics indicate a surplus. The CSO reports France-Ireland goods exports of €14.1 billion in 2024 (compared with €5.6 billion in French data) and Ireland-France exports of €6.3 billion (versus €8.6 billion in French Customs data). These discrepancies stem mainly from the treatment of aircraft delivered to Irish leasing companies and from differences in the recording of goods routed through third countries, notably in the pharmaceutical sector. Based on CSO data, France ranks as Ireland's leading EU supplier of goods.

## 2/ Figures on investment

France is the #1 EU Investor in Ireland, based on 2023 CSO Data using the method of the ultimate investor. The ultimate investor approach attributes investment to the ultimate controlling parent, i.e. the firm with final decision-making power. The immediate investor approach, on the other hand, records the country of the first foreign entity investing in Ireland, often an intermediary in financial centres such as the Netherlands, Bermuda, or Switzerland. Using ultimate investment provides a more accurate picture of French FDI in Ireland, beyond the distortions of special-purpose vehicles and conduit jurisdictions. Regarding French FDI positions in Ireland, Banque de France reports €27.4 bn at end-2024, and €26.8 bn at end-2023, compared with €25.7 bn from the CSO at end-2023. Such limited gaps are typical of mirror statistics and stem mainly from the CSO's correction to ultimate investor. Readers may refer to the CSO's methodological notes for details.

## 3/ Figures on firms and employment

For the 2025 edition, the scope was broadened to capture a wider footprint and ensure consistency with our main source, Orbis. It now includes subsidiaries and branches of French companies in Ireland, as well as locally incorporated firms with over 50% French ownership. Where a group operates multiple entities or brands, only distinct economic units are counted: for example, the various brands of Irish Distillers are treated as one entity, while separate activities of groups such as LVMH (Bulgari, Louis Vuitton, ...) are counted individually. This reflects the diversity of commercial brands visible in Ireland. For nursing homes owned or operated by French investors (InfraVia) or operators (Vivalto Vie, Emeis, Virtue, DomusVi), one subsidiary is counted per facility to capture both employment significance and acquisition trends in the sector.

Employment figures were compiled comprehensively, subsidiary by subsidiary, using information from Orbis, official company websites and LinkedIn pages, press sources, as well as the 2025 survey responses, complemented by the French Embassy's professional network. French entrepreneurs established in Ireland, although contributing to the overall French economic footprint, are not included in these figures, as no comprehensive database could be established for this category.

## 4/ 2025 Survey

The survey has been sent to over 100 subsidiaries of French groups, French-owned companies, and businesses founded by French entrepreneurs in Ireland, with 72 completed responses.

A REPORT  
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